

# Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2029







# Town of Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2029

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*Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.*

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# SECTION 1. PLAN OVERVIEW

The 2022 Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is a policy document the Town will use to guide the protection and enhancement of its open space and recreational resources. Arlington last updated its OSRP in 2015 and has since initiated and completed a range of planning efforts to address that plan's goals. This OSRP is an opportunity to unify the Town's planning efforts across numerous topics—including environmental stewardship, natural hazard and climate change resilience, and complete streets—as they relate to open space and recreation planning to assess what the Town is doing well and how it can better achieve desired outcomes.

This OSRP establishes the following goals to guide the Town's open space and recreation planning:

- Protect the natural environment to retain its important functions and values and help Arlington adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Ensure the Town's recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces meet local needs and are accessible, safe, and welcoming to all Arlington residents.

- Support local and regional capacity to meet the needs for recreational opportunities, natural resource protection, and overall resources management to be resilient to climate change.
- Build environmental stewardship and public awareness to support the Town's recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces.

To update the OSRP, Arlington initiated a sustained engagement process to raise public awareness and better understand the town's diverse needs for both users and providers of open space and recreational resources. An analysis of these collective short- and long-term needs resulted in the seven-year action plan, which requires collaboration between municipal departments, boards, and committees, in addition to partnerships with local nonprofit and community groups and other municipalities.

Establishing sustainable funding mechanisms will help Arlington achieve its goals of protecting natural resources and providing recreational opportunities for all residents.